

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DOHA 00679 041351Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-09 ISO-00 FEA-01

ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EPG-02

DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-15 OES-07 SP-02

SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 PRS-01 PA-02 /159 W

-----041356Z 072401 /46

R 041235Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY DOHA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2665

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS DOHA 0679

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, OPEC, QA, ID

SUBJECT: QATARI PETROLEUM MINISTER ON INDONESIAN PRICE FREEZING
ANNOUNCEMENT; INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR'S COMMENTS

REF: DOHA 0678

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1. ON JUNE 2, QATAR NEWS AGENCY AND OTHER LOCAL MEDIA CARRIED
EXCERPT OF INTERVIEW BY GOQ PETROLEUM MINISTER SHAYKH ABDUL AZIZ
BIN KHALIF AL THANI WITH KUWAITI DAILY "AL SIYASSA". ACCORDING
ABDUL AZIZ, INDONESIAN PRICE FREEZE ANNOUNCEMENT HAD COME
AS "BIG SURPRISE" TO OPEC, AND NOTED THAT AGREEMENT ON FREEZE
SHOULD BE COLLECTIVE DECISION COLLECTIVELY ANNOUNCED. HE INDICA-

TED, HOWEVER, THAT INDONESIAN ANNOUNCEMENT COULD SERVE LAUDABLE PURPOSE OF MOVING OPEC BACK TO SINGLE PRICE SITUATION.

2. RE 5 PERCENT JULY 1 SCHEDULED OIL PRICE INCREASE, ABDUL AZIZ SAID "WE ARE NOT RPT NOT COMMITTED TO ANOTHER 5 PERCENT INCREASE AT THE NEXT OPEC MEETING BECAUSE OTHER ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS MIGHT BE REACHED AND, THEREFORE, THIS INCREASE WOULD BE DISPENSABLE". HE REITERATED GOQ SUPPORT FOR SINGLE PRICE.

3. IN OTHER REMARKS, ABDUL AZIL DENIED "RUMORS" THAT GOQ WAS DISCOUNTING ITS OIL AT PRECE LEVELS BELOW THOSE AGREED DURING DOHA MINISTERIAL, AND SUPPORTED UAE PRESIDENT'S CALL FOR MEETING OF ARAB MEMBERS OF OPEC TO COORDINATE POSITIONS BEFORE JULY MINISTERIAL.

4. QNA ALSO REPORTED JUNE 1 MEETING BETWEEN ABDUL AZIZ AND INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR SJADZALI. AFTER MEETING, SJADZALI SAID THAT HE HAD CONVEYED MESSAGE FROM GOI TO ABDUL AZIZ IN HIS CAPACITY AS CURRENT OPEC PRESIDENT. SJADZALI ALSO REPORTEDLY BRIEFED ABDUL AZIZ ON INDONEISAN POSITION RE EFFORTS TO RETURN TO SINGLE PRICE, AND EXPRESSED GO'S HOPE THAT OPEC WOULD RETURN SHORTLY TO SINGLE PRICE SYSTEM. SJADZALI STATED THAT DESPITE PRESS REPORTS ON INDONESIAN PRICE FREEZE DECISION, GOI REMAINED FAITHFUL TO POSITION OF OPEC 11 AS AGREED DURING DOHA MINISTERIAL. PAGANELLI

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